

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4600

To amend section 227 of the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify the prohibition on junk fax transmissions.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 16, 2004

Mr. UPTON (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. TERRY, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. JOHN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. BUYER, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. WYNN, Mr. GORDON, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mrs. BONO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. BURR, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Mr. GONZALEZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend section 227 of the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify the prohibition on junk fax transmissions.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Junk Fax Prevention
5 Act of 2004”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON FAX TRANSMISSIONS CONTAINING**
2 **UNSOLICITED ADVERTISEMENTS.**

3 (a) PROHIBITION.—Subparagraph (C) of section
4 227(b)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C.
5 227(b)(1)(C)) is amended to read as follows:

6 “(C) to use any telephone facsimile ma-
7 chine, computer, or other device to send, to a
8 telephone facsimile machine, an unsolicited ad-
9 vertisement—

10 “(i) to a person who has made a re-
11 quest to such sender that complies with
12 the requirements under paragraph (2)(D),
13 not to send future unsolicited advertise-
14 ments to a telephone facsimile machine; or

15 “(ii) to a person not described in
16 clause (i), unless—

17 “(I) the sender has an estab-
18 lished business relationship (which
19 term, for purposes of this subclause,
20 shall have the meaning given the term
21 in section 64.1200 of the Commis-
22 sion’s regulations, as in effect on Jan-
23 uary 1, 2003, except that such term
24 shall include a relationship between a
25 person or entity and a business sub-
26 scriber subject to the same terms ap-

1 plicable under such section to a rela-
2 tionship between a person or entity
3 and a residential subscriber) with
4 such person; and

5 “(II) the unsolicited advertise-
6 ment contains a conspicuous notice on
7 the first page of the unsolicited adver-
8 tisement that—

9 “(aa) states that the recipi-
10 ent may make a request to the
11 sender of the unsolicited adver-
12 tisement not to send any future
13 unsolicited advertisements to
14 such telephone facsimile machine
15 and that failure to comply, within
16 the shortest reasonable time, as
17 determined by the Commission,
18 with such a request meeting the
19 requirements under paragraph
20 (2)(D) is unlawful;

21 “(bb) sets forth the require-
22 ments for a request under para-
23 graph (2)(D); and

24 “(cc) includes a domestic
25 contact telephone and facsimile

1 number for the recipient to
2 transmit such a request to the
3 sender, neither of which may be
4 a number for a pay-per-call serv-
5 ice (as such term is defined in
6 section 228(i)); any number sup-
7 plied shall permit an individual
8 or business to make a do-not-fax
9 request during regular business
10 hours; or”.

11 (b) REQUEST TO OPT-OUT OF FUTURE UNSOLIC-
12 ITED ADVERTISEMENTS.—Paragraph (2) of section
13 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C.
14 227(b)(2)) is amended—

15 (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at
16 the end;

17 (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period
18 at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

19 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
20 paragraphs:

21 “(D) shall provide, by rule, that a request
22 not to send future unsolicited advertisements to
23 a telephone facsimile machine complies with the
24 requirements under this subparagraph only if—

1 “(i) the request identifies the tele-
2 phone number of the telephone facsimile
3 machine to which the request relates;

4 “(ii) the request is made to the tele-
5 phone or facsimile number of the sender of
6 such an unsolicited advertisement provided
7 pursuant to paragraph (1)(C)(ii)(II)(cc) or
8 by any other method of communication as
9 determined by the Commission; and

10 “(iii) the person making the request
11 has not, subsequent to such request, pro-
12 vided express invitation or permission to
13 the sender, in writing or otherwise, to send
14 such advertisements to such person at such
15 telephone facsimile machine; and

16 “(E) may, in the discretion of the Commis-
17 sion and subject to such conditions as the Com-
18 mission may prescribe, allow professional trade
19 associations that are tax-exempt nonprofit orga-
20 nizations to send unsolicited advertisements to
21 their members in furtherance of the associa-
22 tion’s tax-exempt purpose that do not contain
23 the notice required by paragraph (1)(C)(ii)(II),
24 except that the Commission may take action
25 under this subparagraph only by regulation

1 issued after notice and opportunity for public
 2 comment in accordance with section 553 of title
 3 5, United States Code, and only if the Commis-
 4 sion determines that such notice is not nec-
 5 essary to protect the right of the members of
 6 such trade associations to make a request to
 7 their trade associations not to send any future
 8 unsolicited advertisements.”.

9 (c) UNSOLICITED ADVERTISEMENT.—Paragraph (4)
 10 of section 227(a) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47
 11 U.S.C. 227(a)(4)) is amended by inserting “, in writing
 12 or otherwise” before the period at the end.

13 (d) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 270 days after
 14 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Commu-
 15 nications Commission shall issue regulations to implement
 16 the amendments made by this section.

17 **SEC. 3. FCC ANNUAL REPORT REGARDING JUNK FAX EN-**
 18 **FORCEMENT.**

19 Section 227 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47
 20 U. S.C. 227) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 21 lowing new subsection:

22 “(g) JUNK FAX ENFORCEMENT REPORT.—The Com-
 23 mission shall submit a report to the Congress for each
 24 year regarding the enforcement of the provisions of this
 25 section relating to sending of unsolicited advertisements

1 to telephone facsimile machines, which shall include the
2 following information:

3 “(1) The number of complaints received by the
4 Commission during such year alleging that a con-
5 sumer received an unsolicited advertisement via tele-
6 phone facsimile machine in violation of the Commis-
7 sion’s rules.

8 “(2) The number of such complaints received
9 during the year on which the Commission has taken
10 action.

11 “(3) The number of such complaints that re-
12 main pending at the end of the year.

13 “(4) The number of citations issued by the
14 Commission pursuant to section 503 during the year
15 to enforce any law, regulation, or policy relating to
16 sending of unsolicited advertisements to telephone
17 facsimile machines.

18 “(5) The number of notices of apparent liability
19 issued by the Commission pursuant to section 503
20 during the year to enforce any law, regulation, or
21 policy relating to sending of unsolicited advertise-
22 ments to telephone facsimile machines.

23 “(6) For each such notice—

24 “(A) the amount of the proposed forfeiture
25 penalty involved;

1 “(B) the person to whom the notice was
2 issued;

3 “(C) the length of time between the date
4 on which the complaint was filed and the date
5 on which the notice was issued; and

6 “(D) the status of the proceeding.

7 “(7) The number of final orders imposing for-
8 feiture penalties issued pursuant to section 503 dur-
9 ing the year to enforce any law, regulation, or policy
10 relating to sending of unsolicited advertisements to
11 telephone facsimile machines.

12 “(8) For each such forfeiture order—

13 “(A) the amount of the penalty imposed by
14 the order;

15 “(B) the person to whom the order was
16 issued;

17 “(C) whether the forfeiture penalty has
18 been paid; and

19 “(D) the amount paid.

20 “(9) For each case in which a person has failed
21 to pay a forfeiture penalty imposed by such a final
22 order, whether the Commission referred such matter
23 to the Attorney General for recovery of the penalty.

24 “(10) For each case in which the Commission
25 referred such an order to the Attorney General—

1 “(A) the number of days from the date the
2 Commission issued such order to the date of
3 such referral;

4 “(B) whether the Attorney General has
5 commenced an action to recover the penalty,
6 and if so, the number of days from the date the
7 Commission referred such order to the Attorney
8 General to the date of such commencement; and

9 “(C) whether the recovery action resulted
10 in collection of any amount, and if so, the
11 amount collected.”.

12 **SEC. 4. GAO STUDY OF JUNK FAX ENFORCEMENT.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the
14 United States shall conduct a study regarding complaints
15 received by the Federal Communications Commission con-
16 cerning unsolicited advertisements sent to telephone fac-
17 simile machines, which shall determine—

18 (1) the number and nature of such complaints;

19 (2) the number of such complaints that result
20 in final agency actions by the Commission;

21 (3) the length of time taken by the Commission
22 in responding to such complaints;

23 (4) the mechanisms established by the Commis-
24 sion to receive, investigate, and respond to such
25 complaints;

1 (5) the level of enforcement success achieved by
2 the Commission and the Attorney General regarding
3 such complaints;

4 (6) whether complainants to the Commission
5 are adequately informed by the Commission of the
6 responses to their complaints; and

7 (7) whether additional enforcement measures
8 are necessary to protect consumers, including rec-
9 ommendations regarding such additional enforce-
10 ment measures.

11 (b) **ADDITIONAL ENFORCEMENT REMEDIES.**—In
12 conducting the analysis and making the recommendations
13 required under paragraph (7) of subsection (a), the Comp-
14 troller General shall specifically examine—

15 (1) the adequacy of existing statutory enforce-
16 ment actions available to the Commission;

17 (2) the adequacy of existing statutory enforce-
18 ment actions and remedies available to consumers;

19 (3) the impact of existing statutory enforcement
20 remedies on senders of facsimiles;

21 (4) whether increasing the amount of financial
22 penalties is warranted to achieve greater deterrent
23 effect; and

24 (5) whether establishing penalties and enforce-
25 ment actions for repeat violators or abusive viola-

1 tions similar to those established by section 4 of the
2 CAN–SPAM Act of 2003 (15 U.S.C. 7703) would
3 have a greater deterrent effect.

4 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date
5 of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall
6 submit a report on the results of the study under this sec-
7 tion to Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House
8 of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
9 Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

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